

NOV 20 2006

U.S. Patent Appln. No. 10/782,074
Attorney Docket No.: 60001.0301US01/MS305781.01**REMARKS**

Reconsideration and examination of the present application is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Prior to entry of this response, Claims 1-33 were pending in the application. Independent claims 1, 29, and 32 have been amended to clarify claim scope. Claim 6 has been canceled. No claims have been added. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in view of the following remarks.

Substance of Interview Summary

A telephonic interview occurred between the undersigned, Murrell Blackburn and Examiner Kuen Lu on Thursday, October 19, 2006. The interview covered the objection to claim 29 and the rejections to claims 1-31 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maleport et al., U.S. Patent Application 2004/0039743 (hereinafter Maleport) in view of Louis Davidson: Professional SQL Server 2000 Database Design, Wrox Press Ltd. @, 2001, (hereinafter, "Davidson").

The undersigned pointed out to the Examiner that Applicants' amended independent claim 1 recites (1) publishing data from the spreadsheet to the data source via the spreadsheet application. In contrast, Maleport discloses importing a spreadsheet back into their platform specific database file via the Digital Message Analysis Tool (DMAT) to compare platform implementations. (See paragraph 36, Maleport). Platform implementations are located at the platform implementation database 70 not within a spreadsheet application. (See Fig. 4). When a spreadsheet is imported to a location it is retrieved from a different location to the location. The retrieval is initiated from the original location for import. Thus, data from the spreadsheet of Maleport cannot be published to the data source via the spreadsheet application because a spreadsheet application would not import spreadsheet data to the data source it would export data to the data source. Therefore, Maleport teaches away from amended claim 1.

The Examiner indicated that the amendment might have merit, but he would suggest the claimed elements of claim 6 be incorporated into amended claim 1. He acknowledged that a new search may be necessary, but the amendment as suggested would likely overcome the current references. Specifically, the Examiner indicated that the arguments made by the undersigned have merit, however further examination and/or search is still required. The Examiner also

U.S. Patent Appln. No. 10/782,074
Attorney Docket No.: 60001.0301US01/MS305781.01

acknowledged that claim 29, if rewritten as a computer storage medium claim would overcome the current objection. This written response is thus, submitted in follow-up to the telephonic interview for consideration by the Examiner, as it is believed to have placed the application in condition for allowance.

Claim Objections

Claim 2 was objected to because of informalities. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 2 has been amended to correct the informalities and overcome the objection.

Regarding the advisory with respect to claim 29, claim 29 has been amended to overcome the objection.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection

Claims 1-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application 2004/0039743 (hereinafter, "Maleport") in view of Louis Davidson: Professional SQL Server 2000 Database Design, Wrox Press Ltd. ©, 2001, (hereinafter, "Davidson").

Claim 1

Amended independent Claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over the cited art for at least the reason that it recites, *inter alia*, (1) importing via the spreadsheet application data to the spreadsheet from the data source, (2) modifying the imported data in the spreadsheet, (3) publishing data from the spreadsheet to the data source via the spreadsheet application, and (4) storing the data at the data source including writing via the spreadsheet application any changes made to the data in the spreadsheet over corresponding data previously stored at the data source. Publishing the data to the data source includes publishing the modified imported data back to the data source and writing the modified imported data over the data in the data source from which the data was imported to the spreadsheet. Support for the amendment can be found in the specification at least on page 2, lines 15-17 and in canceled claim 6.

In contrast, Maleport discloses an importation process that imports message, word, and field into a database instead of importing, modifying, publishing, and writing data to a data source from a spreadsheet via a spreadsheet application as recited in amended claim 1. It is clear

U.S. Patent Appln. No. 10/782,074
Attorney Docket No.: 60001.0301US01/MS305781.01

from the reference that the DMAT of Maleport imports data from the spreadsheet and exports data to a spreadsheet from a different place to which the DMAT imports data. (See Maleport, Fig. 4, paragraphs 21, 25, 36, and 38). The spreadsheet application of amended claim 1 imports data from the data source to the spreadsheet and publishes data from the spreadsheet to the data source whereas the DMAT does the opposite. Thus, Maleport teaches away from amended claim 1. FIG. 4 of Maleport depicts the process for entering platform specific data into the DMAT database. The user has two options. He may start with the output generated from the PIM, or the user may temporarily export their platform's implementation data to a spreadsheet as depicted in FIG. 4 and edit the information already contained in the database. The DMAT further protects this process by assigning specific users the right to import and export spreadsheets thus preventing another user from inadvertently overwriting another platform's implementation.

The Office Action cites paragraphs 25- 26 and a set the validated parameters stored into a platform implementation database in support of asserting that Maleport discloses publishing data from the spreadsheet. However, these validated parameters are imported to the database not published from a spreadsheet by a spreadsheet application. (See paragraph 21). Further, Maleport discloses refining a platform implementation at a message, word and field level before importing it back into a database. However, the database 16 of Maleport is different from the database 70. (Figure 4). Thus, Maleport does not disclose writing changes via the spreadsheet application over previously stored data at the data source. Therefore, amended claim 1 is allowable over Maleport.

In further contrast, Davidson is recited to cure deficiencies of Maleport of not disclosing connecting a spreadsheet to a data source. However, even if Davidson does disclose connecting a spreadsheet to a data source, neither Maleport nor Davidson alone, or in combination, teach or suggest importing, modifying, publishing, and writing data from a spreadsheet via a spreadsheet application as recited in claim 1. (See page 38, lines 1-7 of Davidson). Thus, amended claim 1 is allowable over Maleport in view of Davidson as well.

Claims 29 and 32

Amended independent Claim 29 is patentably distinguishable over the cited art for at least the reason that it recites, *inter alia*, "importing data to the spreadsheet from the data source

U.S. Patent Appln. No. 10/782,074
Attorney Docket No.: 60001.0301US01/MS305781.01

via the spreadsheet application." Claim 32 has a similar recitation. Support for the amendments can be found in the specification at least on page 2, lines 15-17.

In contrast, Maleport discloses querying a table in a message standard 16 to determine a database unique ID. The Office Action states that this query supports an assertion that the message standard is queried by a spreadsheet application. Applicants respectfully submit that it is Maleport does not disclose importing data to the spreadsheet because Maleport only discloses importing a spreadsheet back into their platform specific database file via the DMAT. (See Maleport, paragraph 36). Thus, importing by a spreadsheet application would import to a spreadsheet. In contrast, Maleport only teaches importing via the DMAT into the database, thus, not via the spreadsheet application as recited in amended claim 29. Claim 32 has a similar recitation.

In further contrast, Davidson is recited to cure deficiencies of Maleport of not disclosing connecting a spreadsheet to a data source. However, even if Davidson does disclose connecting a spreadsheet to a data source, neither Maleport nor Davidson alone, or in combination, teach or suggest importing data to the spreadsheet from the data source via the spreadsheet application. (See page 38, lines 1-7 of Davidson). Thus, amended claims 29 and 32 are allowable over Maleport in view of Davidson as well.

Dependent Claims

Dependent Claims 2-28, 30-31, and 33 are also allowable at least for the reasons described above regarding independent Claims 1, 29, or 32, and by virtue of their dependency upon independent Claims 1, 29, or 32. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection of dependent Claims 2-28, 30-31, and 33. Regarding the Examiner's additional assertions, which have not been addressed specifically, Applicant respectfully submits that these arguments are moot in view of the above remarks.

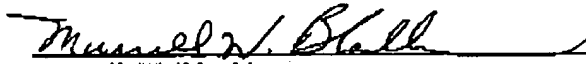
U.S. Patent Appl. No. 10/782,074
Attorney Docket No.: 60001.0301US01/MS305781.01

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
Telephone: 404.954.5100

Date: November 20, 2006


Murrell W. Blackburn
Reg. No. 50,881

